

Dear Members of the Human Services Committee of Connecticut General Assembly:

My name is Samantha Milligan, and I am a resident of Greenwich, Ct. I am currently pursuing my master's degree in Social Work at University of Connecticut. I am a U.S. citizen.

I stand in support of S.B. 284: AN ACT INCREASING THE AGE FROM EIGHT TO EIGHTEEN YEARS FOR AN INCOME-ELIGIBLE PERSON TO OBTAIN MEDICAL ASSISTANCE REGARDLESS OF IMMIGRATION STATUS. Expanding access to HUSKY up to age 18 regardless of immigration status is an essential step in ensuring our immigrant community has access to the healthcare they need. But our work doesn't end with expanding access up to age 18; we need to open access to HUSKY and healthcare to all immigrants of any age, including parents and adults.

It is my privilege to be able to speak in front of you today and explain the importance of passing this bill. I am originally from Tucson, Arizona and lived there until I was 18 years old. I then moved to Chile and lived there for thirteen years with my Chilean husband and two children. My children are currently 14 and 11 years old and have dual U.S./Chilean citizenship. My husband just recently became a nationalized citizen. I have worked as a translator and English as a Second Language (ESL) teacher for over 20 years and am now pursuing my career in Social Work where I hope to advocate marginalized populations. I have been interning the last year at a Department of Human Services. A large portion of our clientele are LatinX and many are undocumented. It is my duty as a professional and as a U.S. citizen to stand for the importance of passing this legislation.

My family and I are the lucky ones. We have access to healthcare. We pay a premium and have a hefty deductible, but we can access all forms of healthcare and I cannot imagine our lives without being able to do so. We are also a healthy family without the necessity of specialized health care.

The passing of this legislation is not only necessary; it is a Human Right. According to the Declaration of Human Rights, all people have the right to equal treatment. Undocumented immigrants have the right to equal treatment with regard to healthcare. Our community would benefit by being proactive and allowing all undocumented children and ultimately all undocumented immigrants the ability to access health care. Although these individuals are undocumented, they are an important aspect to our economy, they pay taxes, and positively affect our society. By allowing undocumented immigrants HUSKY, the cost of medical coverage for these individuals that in need of emergency care would decrease, which would benefit us all.

I am in support of S.B. 284 and I humbly ask this committee to pass this legislation.

Thank you for your time,

Samantha Milligan